GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3263
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEVA YOJANA
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in the year 1995;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Yojana;

(c) whether under this Yojana, the Government had paid commission to agents who rendered no business;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective was to provide basic postal facilities in Gram Panchayat villages, which did not have postal facilities, in a more cost-effective manner, in collaboration with the Panchayats.

(c) & (d) Under the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana, an agent was paid a fixed allowance of Rs.300/- month (later revised to Rs. 600/- month from March 2001) for rendering counter services like sale of stamps and stationery and booking of registered letters, as well as for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail, wherever permitted. Separate incentive/ commission was given for the quantum of stamps and stationery sold and every registered article booked. Where no transaction took place, the agent was paid only the fixed allowance, but no commission.

(e) Does not arise in views of (c) and (d) above